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The Advantages of 1737 as a Starting Point of Botanical Nomenclature*

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At request of the editor of this journal [*Gaertnerisches Zentralblatt*], I give the following newly proved list of generic names, that do not need to be changed if the starting-point of 1735 is abandoned. The numbers before the names are the approximate number of species :

- 15 *Aesculus* (*Pavia* 1735).
- 30 *Ageratum* (*Carelia* 1736).
- 45 *Ajuga* (*Bulga* 1735).
- 58 *Arctotis* (*Anemonospermus* 1736).
- 1400 *Astragalus* (*Tragacantha* 1737) incl.:
- 150 *Spiesia* = *Oxytropis* according to Briquet and Burnat.
- 23 *Bulbine* (*Phalangium* 1736).
- 21 *Carica* (*Papaya* 1735).
- 8 *Carpesium* (*Conyzodes* 1736).
- 1 *Cassandra* (*Hydragonum* 1736).
- 132 *Clitoria* (*Ternatea* 1735).
- 3 *Coix* (*Sphaerium* 1735).
- 1 *Convallaria* § L. (*Majanthemum* 1736). [§ is the sign for group (section, subgenus or discretionary genus); § L. 1737 means a group of Linnaeus.]
- 230 *Cordia* (*Lithocardium* 1735).
- 6 *Corrigiola* (non 1736.)
- 170 *Crepis* (*Hieraciodes* 1736), if separated.
- 600 *Croton* (*Oxydectes* 1735).
- 1 *Cuminum* (non 1735).
- 180 *Cynanchum* (*Vincetoxicum* 1736) sensu latiore.
- 1 *Dryas* (*Dryadaea* 1735) .
- 72 *Echinops* (*Sphaerocephalus* 1735).
- 12 *Elatine* (*Potamopithys* 1735).

* Translated by the author from the *Gaertnerische Zentralblatt*, Berlin, 1899, No. 2. The article contains a new motive for 1737 and at the last a new international proposition not yet known to American botanists.

- 400 *Erica* Ludw. 1737 (*Ericodes* Möhr. 1736).—*Erica* L. 1737 is partly *Calluna* Salisb. 1802 = *Ericodes* Ludw. 1737 (non Moehr.), z. T. *Erica* Ludw.—Linnaeus' indication "*Semina numerosa*" is only fit for *Erica* Ludw., because *Ericodes vulgare* O. K. (*Calluna vulg.*) has at most 8 seeds.
- 34 *Erythrina* (*Corallodendron* 1735).
 8 *Feuillêca* (non 1735).
 5 *Galanthus* (*Chianthemum* 1736).
 2 *Galeopsis* (*Ladanum* 1735).
- 180 *Geranium* § L. 1737; 1753 ex parte max. (*Gerani-
 ospermum* Sieg. 1736 = *Pelargonium*! Burm.
 1738); eventually incl.
- *Gruinalis* § L. 1737, Ludw. 1737, Haller 1745 (*Ge-
 ranium* Sieg., L'Hér.).—Linnaeus distinguished
 1737 (in *Genera Plant.*: 204) under *Geranium* in
 an observation: *Geranium* "Riv.," corolla irregu-
 lari. *Gruinalis* "Riv.," corolla aequali et fila-
 mentis vix manifeste coalitis. Haller in *Flora*
Jenensis 1745 had under *Gruinalis* only species
 which we call now *Geranium*. Nearly all species
 of *Pelargonium* are already named under *Geranium*,
 and *Geranium* is still a popular name of several
 nations instead of *Pelargonium*. But it would not
 be necessary to name the species under *Gruinalis*,
 because both genera are better united again,
 as all indicated differences are not decisive, vary-
 ing from species to species.
- 90 *Gomphrena* (*Xeraca* 1735).
 30 *Helenium* (non 1735).
 1 *Illecebrum* (non 1736).
- 400 *Inga* § L. 1737 (*Feuillêca* 1735) sensu latiore.
 90 *Inula* (*Helenium* 1735).
 1 *Lagoecia* (*Cuminum* 1735).
 100 *Lepidium* (*Nasturtium* 1735).
 12 *Linnaea* (*Obolaria* 1736).
 1 *Lunularia* (*Marsilia* 1735).
 23 *Melilotus* (*Sertula* 1735).

- 4 *Melia* (*Azedarach* 1735),
- 13 *Michelia* (non 1735).
- 156 *Nepeta* (incl. *Glechoma* 1735).
- 1 *Obolaria* (non 1736).
- 8 *Ornithopus* (*Ornithopodium* 1735).
- 2 *Patagonula* (*Patagonica* 1735).
- 220 *Oxalis* (*Acetosella* 1736).
- 27 *Phlox* (*Armeria* 1735).
- 540 *Phyllanthus* (*Diasperus* 1735) sensu latiore.
- 10 *Pistacia* (*Lentiscus* 1735).
- 110 *Psidium* (*Guajava* 1736), if separated.
- 105 *Psoralea* (*Lotodes* 1736).
- 120 *Rhus* (*Toxicodendron* 1735).
- 15 *Sesamum* (*Volkameria* 1735).
- 54 *Sisyrinchium* (*Bermudiana* 1735).
- 80 *Stapelia* (*Stissera* 1735).
- 115 *Thesium* (*Linosyris* 1736).
- 48 *Tropaeolum* (*Trophacum* 1735).
- 75 *Trigonella* (*Telis* 1735).
- 44 *Trichosanthes* (*Anguina* 1735).
- 1 *Zea* (*Thalysia* 1735).

6285 species in 58 genera with long-used names remain thus valid. But 329 species in 9 genera, valid from the former starting point, receive new names; therefore 5956 species in 49 genera are spared, that is, are less to be changed, in their names, if we begin with 1737 instead of 1735. But this is the only profitable deviation from the Paris Code.

Moreover, the starting of 1737 affords the great advantage, that Linnaeus' *Genera Plantarum* 1737 contains besides the scientific diagnoses of the genera (which are in 1753 without diagnoses!) also definitions for named subgenera or discretionary genera; by which means an easy separation is possible into later distinguished genera. Linnaeus wrote, for instance: *Hyacinthus*, genus hocce naturale in plura non naturalia distribuerunt: (α) *Hyacinthus* quum tubus corollae sit tubulatus oblongus: (β) *Muscari* quum tubus corollae sit fere globosus. In the same manner is distinguished *Convallaria* (α) from (β) *Polygonatum*, (γ) *Unifolium*. The last is now mostly valid for *Majanthemum*. In the year 1737 *Myagrum*

§ L.: *Rapistrum* § L.—is clear although united under *Myagrum*; in the year 1753, when these sections (§ = subgenera = genera discretionaria) are omitted, we must decide *ex parte majore*, else the matter loses its clearness and becomes confused. The case is the same in *Calendula* and § *Dimorphotheca*, *Helianthemum* and *Cistus*, etc. The following names are thus obtained from the §§ of 1737 for later renewed genera: *Acaria*, *Alhagi*, *Arnica****, *Arisarum*, *Bernhardia*, *Bulbocodium**, *Cakile*, *Camara*, *Cannabina**, *Capnodes*, *Capnorchis**, *Castanea****, *Ceratodes*, *Cercus***, *Colocynthis**, *Damasonium*, *Dimorphotheca*, *Dracunculus*, *Echinophora*, *Elephas*, *Foeniculum***, *Helianthemum*, *Helleborodes**, *Hypocistis*, *Jonthlaspi*, *Lantana* § (= *Oftia*), *Lasianthus****, *Leuconymphaea** (= *Nymphaea* auct. recent!), *Nymphaea* (= *Nuphar*!), *Liliastrum*, *Limonium*, *Majorana*, *Malvaviscus*, *Meibomia**, *Melilotus*, *Melocactus*, *Muscari*, *Nelumbo*, *Myagrum*, *Onobrychis*, *Opuntia*, *Paliurus*, *Polygonatum*, *Raphanistrum*, *Rapistrum*, *Rhagadiolus*, *Securidaca* (*Securigera* DC.), *Statice*, *Symphoricarpus*, *Thymbra**, *Triosteospermum*, *Trollius**, *Tulipifera*, *Unifolium*, *Zacintha***.—(One * means that Linnaeus gave such an * to these names in the index of his Genera Plantarum; ** means that Linnaeus had that name in 1735 for a genus; *** indicates both.)

From these discretionary genera considered by Linnaeus and other authors at one time as genera, at another time as sections, a systematic decision is easy; only two dubious cases occur: the first rare case is that the same group (*a*) received two names, such as *Sida* and *Malvinda*; then the genus name, which received first a species name, is valid. The other case is that three to four names occur for the same now united group; then the name under which they were first correctly united, is to be valid. For instance, *Lonicera* 1737 consists of four genera and is thus confused; Haller after exclusion of the genera not belonging thereto, first united *Caprifolium*, *Periclymenum*, *Chamaecerasus*, *Xylosteum* under *Caprifolium*. *Lobelia* Pl. is correctly defined as a § and is therefore to be excluded; the rest was named then at first *Rapuntium*, under which name most of the species are already named in the monograph of Presl. Some genera would have to receive new names, if their name were not secured from the § of 1737, *c. g.*, *Helianthemum*. The name *Cactus*, after exclusion of the §§ of 1737, remains good for the remaining part.

In contrast to these great advantages and savings of the 1737-starting-point, there are—see my *Revisio Generum III*^{II}, chapter 27 and 28—to be changed with the 1753-starting-point the names of 7100 species and 129 genera, whereof only 29 genera with 152 species are named up to the present time. Furthermore 46 genera thereof with 3621 species would have still to receive new and unusual names instead of those introduced from the earlier starting-point. But even with this the number of these changes is not finished, because the starting-point of 1753 for genera has not yet been completely worked out. This 1753-starting-point is thus not only horribly *noxious* but also *unscientific*, as it misses the genera-diagnoses and nearly all the named genera-sections. *Only the 1737-starting-point is practicable, scientific, and economical for genera.* Perhaps a general convention may be agreed upon to the effect that the 1737-starting-point be valid for genera, 1753 for species *with future exclusion of all intermediate works*, that is of all publications between Linnaeus' *Genera Plantarum* 1737 and *Species Plantarum* 1753.